

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for service processor surveillance for a system having multiple partitions, comprising:
 - receiving a service processor status request from a first one partition of a plurality of partitions;
 - determining if a predetermined time period has elapsed;
 - performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the predetermined time period has elapsed;
 - updating an official response for the surveillance test; and
 - returning a status for the service processor to the one partition of the plurality of partitions.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of performing the surveillance test comprises:
 - reading surveillance information; and
 - determining whether the service processor has written to the surveillance information.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of performing the surveillance test further comprises writing to the surveillance information.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the surveillance information comprises a surveillance byte in nonvolatile random access memory.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing error handling if the service processor is in error.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the status comprises the official response.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
comparing the official response to a partition official response associated with the [[first]] one partition; and
setting the partition official response to be equal to the official response if the official response is not equal to the partition official response.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the status comprises the partition official response.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the status comprises a neutral value if the official response is equal to the partition official response.

10. (Currently amended) A method for service processor surveillance for a system having multiple partitions, comprising:
receiving a service processor status request from a first one partition of a plurality of partitions;
determining whether a predetermined time period has elapsed;
performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the predetermined time period has elapsed; and
returning a status for the service processor to the one partition of the plurality of partitions.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of performing the surveillance test comprises:
reading surveillance information; and

determining whether the service processor has written to the surveillance information.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of performing the surveillance test further comprises writing to the surveillance information.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the surveillance information comprises a surveillance byte in nonvolatile random access memory.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus for service processor surveillance for a system having multiple partitions, comprising:

receipt means for receiving a service processor status request from a first one partition of a plurality of partitions;

determining means for determining if a predetermined time period has elapsed;

surveillance means for performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the predetermined time period has elapsed;

update means for updating an official response for the surveillance test; and

return means for returning a status for the service processor to the one partition of the plurality of partitions.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the surveillance means comprises:

reading means for reading surveillance information; and

determination means for determining whether the service processor has written to the surveillance information.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the surveillance means further comprises means for writing to the surveillance information.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the surveillance information comprises a surveillance byte in nonvolatile random access memory.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
means for performing error handling if the service processor is in error.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the status comprises the official response.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
means for comparing the official response to a partition official response associated with the [[first]] one partition; and
means for setting the partition official response to be equal to the official response if the official response is not equal to the partition official response.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the status comprises the partition official response.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the status comprises a neutral value if the official response is equal to the partition official response.

23. (Currently amended) An apparatus for service processor surveillance for a system having multiple partitions, comprising:
receipt means for receiving a service processor status request from a first one partition of a plurality of partitions;
determination means for determining whether a predetermined time period has elapsed;
surveillance means for performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the predetermined time period has elapsed; and
return means for returning a status for the service processor to the one partition of the plurality of partitions.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the surveillance means comprises:
reading means for reading surveillance information; and

determination means for determining whether the service processor has written to the surveillance information.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the surveillance means further comprises means for writing to the surveillance information.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the surveillance information comprises a surveillance byte in nonvolatile random access memory.

27. (Currently amended) A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for service processor surveillance for a system having multiple partitions, comprising:

instructions for receiving a service processor status request from a first one partition of a plurality of partitions;

instructions for determining if a predetermined time period has elapsed;

instructions for performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the predetermined time period has elapsed;

instructions for updating an official response for the surveillance test; and

instructions for returning a status for the service processor to the one partition of the plurality of partitions.

28. (Currently amended) A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for service processor surveillance for a system having multiple partitions, comprising:

instructions for receiving a service processor status request from a first one partition of a plurality of partitions;

instructions for determining whether a predetermined time period has elapsed;

instructions for performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the predetermined time period has elapsed; and

instructions for returning a status for the service processor to the one partition of the plurality of partitions.